

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Form Bi-689

FIELD DIARY

Mr. _____

Vernon Bailey

(Official title.)

Period, _____

1924

to _____

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April 29 Took the Ford truck with
Dana Lee and Jim White and went
to Doughty Canyon, around by Black
River and Washington's ranch, through
20 miles of prairie dog and jack
rabbit country.

Climbed up to first right hand
cave, about 600 feet from bottom of
canyon up very steep and rough slope,
on east side of canyon near top of
wall, probably 400 feet to real top.

A large open tunnel with arched
doorway half full of debris.
Cave runs back about 300 feet & is
100 wide and about as high.
Is some light to the back end.
Some old bat & bird guano but
none of importance as recent deposit.
Owls, Swallows, Gophers and Canyon
wrens nesting in a way.
Ring tails & marmots & most tracks common.

Considerable signs of ancient habitation
smashed walls and old fire material.
A hundred Indians could have lived
in it comfortably all winter and
the big mescal pits at the point
of the ridge below show a rather
large Indian population.

There are many drip places with
plenty of water to be caught in dishes.
Old cracked bones show where game
had been used. The cave is
a wonderful stronghold, where the
whole valley can be watched and
a few men could keep back an army
or could escape to the tops of
the cliffs above. Food is
abundant in the form of *hedgehog*
& *Sotol* and with deer and mountain
goats as still here & formerly must
have been numerous.

In afternoon went up to the
Guano cave, ^{a mile} above the goat
ranch on east side of east arm
of Canyon but found nothing new
since I was there before. It is only
100 feet above the canyon bottom
easily accessible, larger but of
the same great tunnel form,
probably 1,000 feet long and 100
wide and high. A herd of goats
have been occupying it for years
as a winter resort, just as
Mountain sheep & Indians
did ~~over~~ years ago. There is
plenty of water in it, and some
large stalactites and stalagmites but
nothing of great beauty. It was
worth and the light sandy rocks
the back and the front half is
fairly light. Ring tails, owls,
Foxes, rats & mice live here

Another cave between the two on the east side of Slaughter Canyon is very deep and dangerous, going down some 200 feet deep in the side of the canyon wall & only entered by ropes & ladders.

Considerable guano has been taken out of it but one man was killed in it and then abandoned.

But 3 dead muzzles show that poison is kept out to kill cats

+ foxes & mountain lions.

The canyon walls are high and

rough and picturesque and at

one end ideal big horn antelope

but range.

~~between them~~

A few car loads of guano

were taken out a dozen years ago

but not enough to pay for cables

and machinery & work.

There is no fresh guano except

of the goats, and the old bat

guano is large and may be of

some larger species of bat

and not of Nyctinomops.

Most of the bats that come to water at

the goat ranch just below are Epomophorus.

April 30. Went up the west side of Slaughter Canyon about 2 miles to the first cabs and climbed 400 feet on its south side up an old bison trail to a most interesting cave where the big horns still live and that should be called Bighorn Cave or Cavern.

It is about half way up the wall of a wonderfully picturesque canyon, ideal range for bighorns & mule deer and well hidden up by both. Lots of fresh deer tracks and fresh beds were seen along the zigzag trail but when we entered the cave through a small door on the east side of a high rocky ridge and looked out through the great archway on one level to the west and saw the most picturesque cave I ever and surrounding scene.

saw we forgot about the mule deer
for there were bighorn trails entering
the cave door, fresh bighorn tracks
in the cave and well worn trails
back to the water pool at the head.

The cave measured 400 feet in
length, about 100 feet wide and
75 feet for an average height.
It has a fairly level floor with
some piles of debris and some
stalagmit formations built up and
a rough slope of fallen blocks of
limestone on one side.

There are numerous stalactites and
the whole effect is of a great
palace of the cave dwellings of the
dawn of civilization. A dim light
penetrates to the far end but there are
dark corners and under the broken rocks
retreats for many of the smaller animals.
A lower level extends from to the
north with several rooms below but

Not of special interest and a hidden

opening on the slope west of the goat door

leads down 30 or 40 feet into the rocks.

The goat door is a garden of

flowering trees and shrubs well into

the mouth of the cave and the outlook

is a wonderful picture of cliffs and

terraces, too steep and rough for any

domestic stock to ever graze.

Rocks and trails and beds of pellets

of mountain sheep show this cave

to be the winter resort of a considerable

number but also a watering place

during the year. The sheep quarry

is deep in places and very old.

parts of two old skulls and some other bones

show that they have been killed here

and the lack of any further signs of life

suggest that it was left in the valley

as a convenient place to sleep for sheep

when needed. It is a perfect sheep trap.

There are great abundance of tracks of
the cow and singtail, a few coyote
tracks and in the valley I have
seen bear tracks in it. Both
sheep and bear bones were found
and probably bear have been hunted
here in recent years. Of course
mountain lions and bobcats have
been here but both are now scarce.
Wood rats, mice & small tracks are
numerous in dusty places.

The bird fauna is no less
abundant & interesting. A colony
of white throated swifts breed in a
long crevice in the rock and bring
in some 20 or 30 feet of
this guano at a time of
wing feathers underneath.
About 3 car loads of guano
was taken out in a year and
piled down a berm at one

Much of it has been burned or mixed with bat and bighorn guano.

Half a dozen of the swifts were circling and shrieking through the cave and occasionally disappearing in the rock overhead but the colony has not yet returned. They make a wonderful display, cutting out of in through the great cave doors.

A pair of cliff swallows have a nest in a hole in the roof, a natural cavity where no mud is needed. *Trochocercus* says he has one nest, at least, in the roof of the cave and a pair of Canyon wrens nest in the doorway. There is a beautiful last year's hummer nest on a mulberry twig well back in the mouth of the cave and *Archibates* abdominalis was seen below.

Great Horned owls nest and roost at

Cave in the cave ad gulps up their pellets under every ledge ad perching place in the cave. Near some of the tall stalagmites the ground is strewn with bones of all the small rodents, many birds of septiles of the vicinity ad a gallon can was filled with these for more careful examination. There are still bushels of bones lying on the ground for more extended study of future naturalists.

Several quarts of shells were picked up with the bones but not a part of the owl food.

Took many photographs of caves ad plants ad quiet views of the canyon.

Water is scarce in the canyon but is found in most of the caves ad in several springs in the Canyon or on the slopes.

Returned to Carlsbad Caverns in P.M.

May 1. Packed up and shipped a lot of specimens and went to Calsbad in P.M. to get them off.

May 2 - Went cave hunting with Carl Livingston and Rob Dow, first to a cave in top of limestone hill a mile NW of Santa Fe tank, where I shot *Urotris evotis* in 1901 as they came to water from this cave. Found a *Urotris*, I should guess, hanging to the rock in a great mass heldded together in back end of cave. Caught a few but left them for a photograph. Caught a young Diamondback rattlesnake in cave.

Visited a rattlesnake den near there where 19 were killed a year ago as they were living about the entrance of a low cave opening - the limestone ledge.

Birds

Saw a fine Golden eagle
Red tail Hawks nesting
Gila woodpeckers, a pair on pruce
Corvus cryptoleucus, common - pairs
Callipepla squamata, a few flocks seen.
Cliff swallows, nesting in ~~Dark~~ Dark Canyon.
Burrowing owl, 1 seen
Bubo, bores wells nests in caves.
Lanius, common a few seen
Calawaspiza, abundant in flocks

up to 100, largely black backs.

Lanius personatum, common in canyon.

Scissortail, said to breed at

Lionepson Ranch, 35 miles east of Paulsboro.

Went up Dark Canyon and into
two caves in the canyon wall
where Indians had lived and
had comfortable quarters. Found
a few bits of old Cerus of game and
men and lots of small bones per
Owl pellets. Both caves had some
clawbers that should be carefully
excavated. Many old insect
pits and grinding holes seen.
Plenty of Lechuguillas and Sotol and
Mesquite and Indian tobacco and
good soil for raising corn and
squashes. Stacks of Ocotillo and
Cactus and other desert types of
vegetation of lower Sonoran zone.

Rained in night and again after
noon.

Returned to Carlsbad Cavern in
evening.

May 3. Came to town and out to the bat cave in Bob Dow's pasture 4 1/2 miles west of town and half a mile west of where I shot Myotis evotis in 1901. Used flashlight powder in a blow flare while Mr. Lee took moving pictures of the bats in a mass and as they flew from the low ceiling of the cave. Took snapshots also but they are not likely to be good. I think 1000 bats would be a fair estimate of the number in the cave & they seem to be all evotis. Caught a bag full also.

The rains yesterday have brought out the lizards more than any time before. Saw two *Crotaphytus* 'bullocki' many *Holbrookias* & a small black *Sceloporus*.

Thamnophis *coeruleus* is in flower the first seen.

May 4 88, remained at camp writing up reports, packing specimens and getting ready to go home. Mostly warm and clear but very real hot days.

Suffering from grip or some kind of fever and not able to do much work.

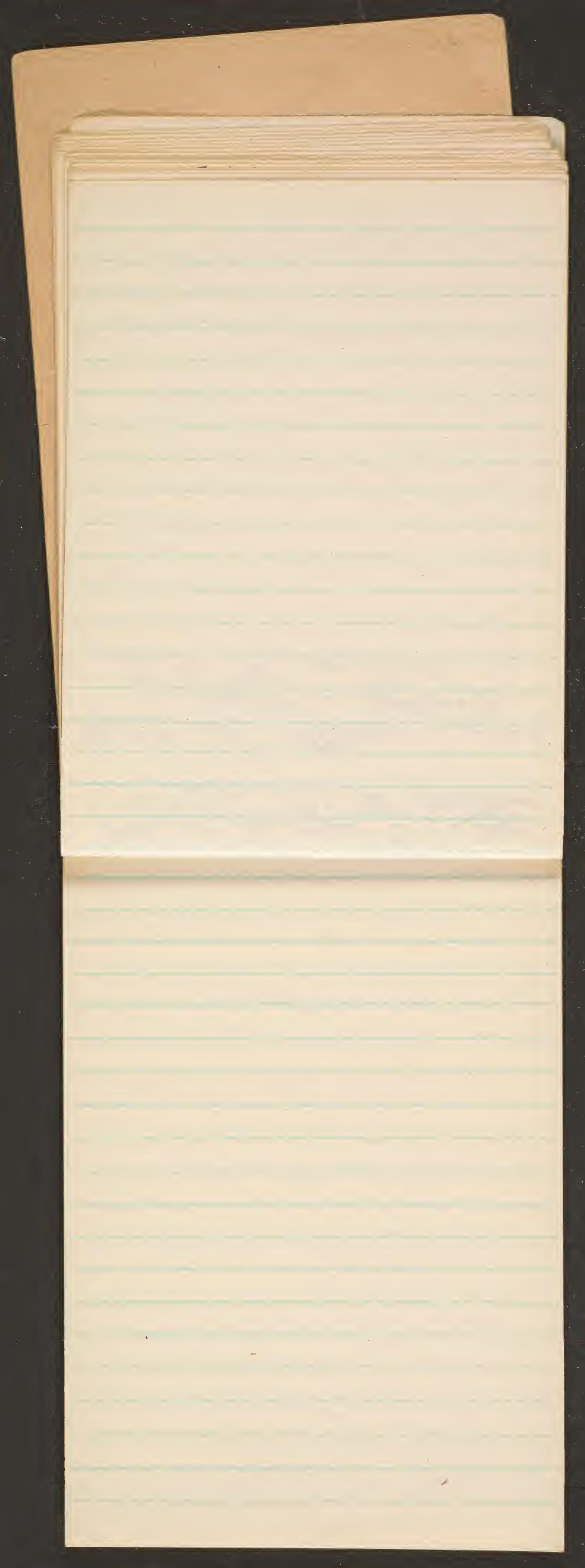
May 9, Came to Carlsbad in morning and got ready to leave tomorrow

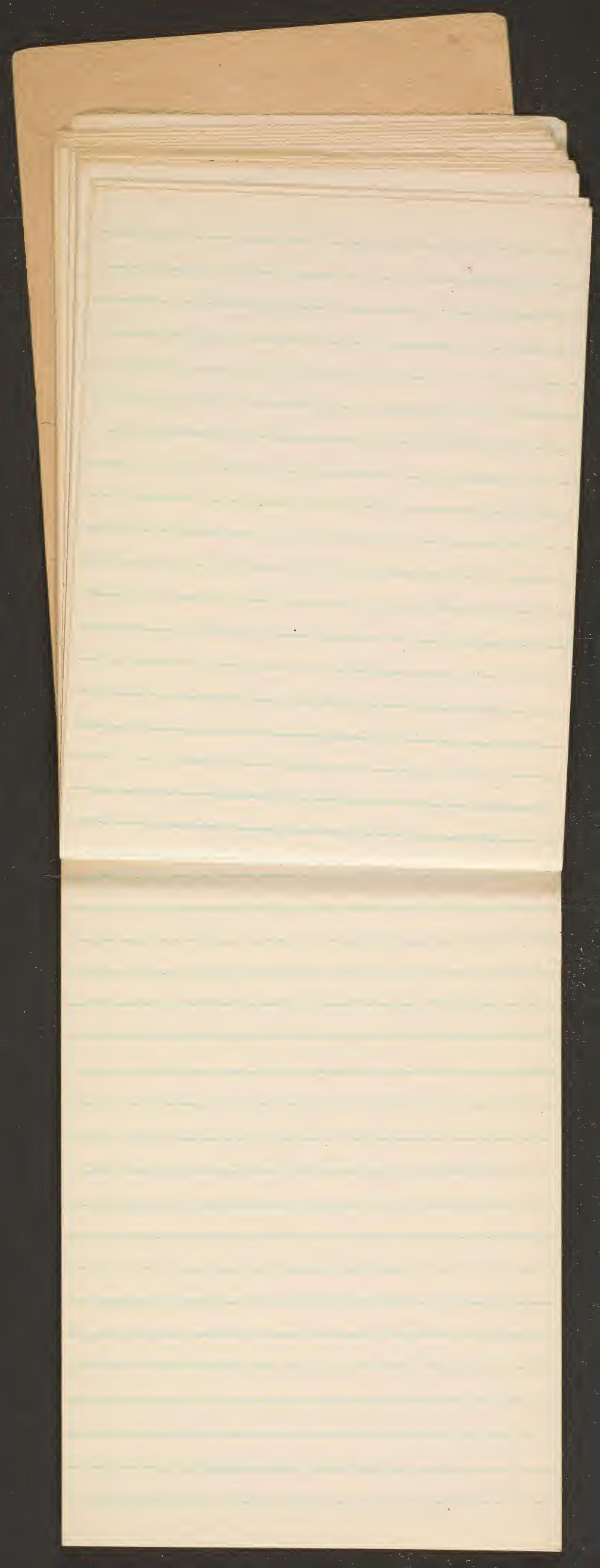
May 10, Took 7:30 train north to Clovis where I caught train to Chicago next morning -

May 11, all day through Texas, Oklahoma & into southern Kansas.

May 12, Reached Chicago 7:45
PM id transferred to Pa. depot
& left there 11:30 PM for Pittsburg.

May 13, Left Pittsburg in morning
id arrived - Washington
10:13 PM. on time.





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U. S. Department of Agriculture,

Washington, D. C.

Bureau of Biological Survey.

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